

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 are pending in this application, with Claim 24 being the only independent claim.

Claims 24 and 29-32 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,989 ("Yano et al."). Claims 24 and 29-32 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,659,601 ("Goto et al."). Claims 24 and 29-32 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,199 ("Tomioka et al."). Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be held in abeyance until all other rejections are overcome.

Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Field et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,420,039). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants believe it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention.

The present invention, as recited in Claim 24, relates to an ink-jet imaged recording medium comprising a colored portion. The colored portion comprises aggregates of fine particles, each of the fine particles having a coloring material thereon by adsorption in a monomolecular state. The coloring material is anionic or cationic, and the fine particles have a

polarity opposite to that of the coloring material. The color portion is obtained by applying an ink containing the coloring material and a liquid composition containing the fine particles to a recording medium in such a manner that the ink and the liquid composition come in contact with each other in a liquid state.

In other words, the image is formed by a liquid-liquid reaction when the ink and the liquid composition come into contact with each other in a liquid state on the recording medium. As a result, in the image portion of the present invention, the coloring material is adsorbed sufficiently and efficiently by fine particles in a monomolecular state, compared with a conventional image formed on a coated paper. Moreover, in the present invention, the amount of the fine particles can be reduced, which means that the texture of the base paper is not impaired.

In the present invention, the ink and the liquid composition are both in a liquid state when they come into contact with each other. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by Field et al. Instead, in Field et al. a coating composition is applied to a substrate and dried completely to make a coated paper. (See, e.g., col. 2, lines 10-11.) After that, ink is applied to the coated paper, so that the coating composition and the ink do not contact each other in a liquid state. Therefore, Applicants submit that the configuration of Claim 24 of the present invention and that disclosed in Field et al. are different. Applicants note that, due to the structure of the present invention, wherein an ink and a liquid composition containing fine particles come into contact in a liquid state, the coloring material can be adsorbed onto fine particles in a monomolecular state sufficiently and efficiently to provide better image quality, as compared with Field et al. where ink, in a liquid state, and fine particles, in a solid state, come into contact. Moreover, Applicants note that, in the present invention, there is only a small amount of the fine

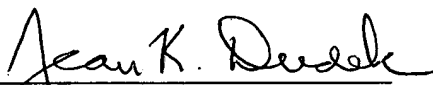
particles on the base paper, and therefore the texture of the base paper is not degraded, as compared with Field et al. Applicants therefore submit that the final products produced by the present invention versus Field et al. are different in structure.

Applicants therefore conclude that Field et al. does not teach or suggest the features of the invention as presently claimed. Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined over Field et al. by independent Claim 24. The dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 24, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants request withdrawal of the above-noted rejections, and submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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